

Serial No.: 09/681,682
Docket No.: SS3161USNA

Page 3

In the claims:

~~Please amend the claims as follows:~~

1. (Amended) A process for preparing a plurality of multi-layered filaments from multiple thermoplastic synthetic polymers comprising:

separately melting and extruding multiple thermoplastic synthetic polymers into separate molten polymer flow streams;

~~distributing~~ passing each of said separate molten polymer flow streams into separate coat hanger manifolds to form a separate planar molten polymer flow streams stream of each of said polymers;

then ~~filtering~~ passing said separate planar molten polymer flow streams through separate filters to filter said planar molten polymer flow streams; and

feeding said separate planar molten polymer flow streams into a spinneret comprising a plurality of separate polymer flow passages, wherein each planar molten polymer flow stream is fed to a separate series of said polymer flow passages communicating with spinneret exit orifices, which passages are aligned such that multiple molten polymer flow streams emerging from said exit orifices are directed into contact with one another to form multi-layered filaments; and

attenuating said multi-layered filaments so formed with fluid exiting fluid jets positioned adjacent said plurality of spinneret exit orifices.

~~2. The process of claim 1, further comprising cooling and attenuating said multi-layered filaments so formed with fluid exiting fluid jets positioned adjacent said plurality of spinneret exit orifices.~~

3. The process of claim 1, wherein the number of multiple thermoplastic synthetic polymers is two.

Serial No.: 09/681,682
Docket No.: SS3161USNA

Page 4

4. The process of claim 1, wherein the number of multiple thermoplastic synthetic polymers is greater than two.

5. (Amended) An apparatus for spinning melt blowing a plurality of multi-layered filaments from multiple thermoplastic synthetic polymers comprising:

multiple extruders for separately melting and extruding multiple thermoplastic synthetic polymers into molten polymer flow streams; and

a melt blowing beam comprising:

separate coat hanger distribution manifolds downstream of and communicating with said extruders ~~for distributing said separate molten polymer flow streams into separate planar molten polymer flow streams;~~

separate filters downstream of and communicating with said coat hanger distribution manifolds, said filters extending essentially the length of said melt blowing beam for filtering said separate planar molten polymer flow streams; and

a spinneret, downstream of and communicating with said filters, comprising a plurality of separate polymer flow passages for ~~transporting~~ distributing each of said separate planar molten polymer flow streams to a plurality of spinneret exit orifices, said passages being aligned such that separate molten polymer flow streams emerging from the exit orifices come into contact with one another to form multi-layered filaments; and

fluid jets positioned adjacent said spinneret exit orifices to provide fluid for attenuating said multi-layered filaments.

~~6. The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising fluid jets positioned adjacent said spinneret exit orifices to provide fluid for cooling and attenuating said multi-layered filaments.~~

Serial No.: 09/681,682
Docket No.: SS3161USNA

Page 5

7. ~~The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said distribution manifolds are coat hanger manifolds.~~

8. The apparatus of claim 5, which is configured for two thermoplastic synthetic polymers.

9. The apparatus of claim 5, which is configured for more than two thermoplastic synthetic polymers.

B
10. (Amended) A ~~melt spinning~~ meltblowing beam for forming a plurality of multi-layered meltblown filaments from multiple thermoplastic synthetic polymers which comprises multiple polymer inlet passages each communicating with separate multiple coat hanger distribution manifolds, separate filters downstream of and communicating with each coat hanger distribution manifold, and a spinneret downstream of and communicating with said filters, said spinneret having a plurality of separate polymer flow passages communicating with exit orifices for spinning of said multi-layered filaments, and fluid jets positioned adjacent said spinneret exit orifices to provide fluid for attenuating said multi-layered filaments.
